

REMARKS

Applicants thank Mr. Smith for his time during our conference on January 12, 2005. During that conference, we suggested a visual chart of the complex priority chain in the present application.

Mr. Smith counseled us to prepare such a chart and submit it to him unofficially in this submission marked "AFTER FINAL DRAFT" in big bold letters. We trust the above is sufficient.

While getting the chart done took more time than we initially expected, for which Applicants apologize, we trust the chart helps to bring clarity to the chain of claim which is difficult to describe in words.

As noted in the chart, a continuous claim for priority extends to the '218 patent, overcoming both the '561 and '106 patents for reasons obvious from the chart. These timely priority claims exist in the record. Applicants believe this understanding overcomes the instant action and would willingly clarify the record at Mr. Smith's suggestion.

We request that Mr. Smith contact the below signed and we will respond immediately to schedule a brief conference.

Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosure: Priority Claim Chart (1-page)

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